

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MANAMA 00935 281143Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4558

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAMA 0935

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS : MORG, PFOR, BA
SUBJECT : MIDEASTFOR NEGOTIATIONS

1. DELAY IN PRESENTING TO GOB OUR PROPOSALS FOR DOCUMENTING NEW NAVY FORMAT COULD GIVE US TROUBLE WHEN WE COME TO NAIL DOWN THE DETAILS. INCREASING VISIBILITY OF NAVY QUESTION IN REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL MEDIA (MANAMA 909 AND KUWAIT 2275), PLUS WIDESPREAD RUMORS HERE, MIGHT LEAD GOB TO TAKE HARDER LINE IN ORDER TO "PROVE" TO CRITICS THAT NEW FORMAT REALLY IS NEW AND THAT "FOREIGN BASE" REALLY WILL BE GONE.
 2. FOREIGN MINISTER SOUGHT ME OUT DURING APRIL 26 DINNER FOR VISITING IRAQIS AND SAID HE HOPED HE WOULD SEE ME SOON WITH DRAFT DOCUMENTS FOR DISCUSSION. I SAID I HOPED SO TOO. HE ALSO REMARKED THAT THERE HAVE BEEN TOO MANY U.S. JOURNALISTS HERE LATELY TO SUIT HIS TASTE.
 3. IN ADDITION TO DEPT DOING WHAT IT CAN TO SPEED CIRCULAR 175 AUTHORITY, I FEEL OUR EXISTING PRESS GUIDANCE (STATE 67623) IS O.B.E. AND OUGHT TO BE CHANGED. SUGGEST DEPT CONSIDER NEW GUIDANCE, WHICH WE COULD THEN COORDINATE WITH GOB, ALONG FOLLOWING LINES: QUOTE THE 1971 STATIONING AGREEMENT PROVIDES THAT EITHER PARTY MAY TERMINATE THE AGREEMENT.
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THE GOVERNMENT OF BAHRAIN HAS TOLD THE UNITED STATES THAT IT WOULD LIKE TO TERMINATE THE AGREEMENT DURING 1977. OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS HAVE BEEN IN CLOSE CONSULTATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF BAHRAIN ON THIS MATTER FOR SOME TIME, GIVING CAREFUL CONSIDERATION NOT ONLY TO ITS BILATERAL ASPECTS BUT ALSO TO EFFECTS AND CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE WIDER REGION. WE BELIEVE THAT THE OUTCOME OF THESE

CONSULTATIONS WILL ENHANCE THE ALREADY EXCELLEN RELATIONS
BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS AS WELL AS BE IN HARMONY WITH THE REGIONAL
ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF BOTH COUNTRIES. END QUOTE.

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